



FROM THE NARFE NATIONAL WEBSITE, www.narfe.org

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) President Charles L. Fallis announced today that his organization is unalterably opposed to a proposal sent to Congress this week by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for legislation to allow Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BC/BS) to offer Health Savings Accounts (HSA) in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP).

We have been saying since 1995 that these controversial plans are a bad deal for federal employees and retirees of any age who have moderate-to-high health care costs or who are living from paycheck-to-paycheck and cannot afford to pay a high deductible or adequately fund a health savings account," Fallis said...

"We believe this trend will continue, and if HSAs become more popular, premiums for comprehensive plans could increase and/or benefits could be cut," Fallis added.

FROM THE NARFE RETIREMENT LIFE MAGAZINE FOR AUGUST 2006

Plans by the Office of Personnel Management to make comprehensive dental and vision insurance available to federal workder and annuitants by December 31 could be delayed as a result of a contracting dispute with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

When Blue Cross/Blue Shield was not included among the insurance carriers selected by OPM in May to offer dental insurance, it filed a protest with the General Accountability Office (GAO) BC/BS's complaint and the GAO investigation were dropped after OPM agreed to reassess and reopen the procurement process.

REMEMBER

NARFE 2006 NATIONAL CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 10-14,2006
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
SEE THE NARFE MAGAZINE FOR
MORE INFO AND RESERVATION
FORMS

N ational
A ctive
R etired
F ederal
E mployees

CHAPTER 860

Cleveland, TN 37312 Summer 2006

REMEMBER! Next Chapter Meeting...

WHAT? Annual Summer Cookout

WHEN? August 10 - Thurs @ 6:30 PM

WHERE? St. Teresa's Catholic Church

NO SPEAKER THIS TIME, BUT WE DO HAVE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO DISCUSS

NARFE Chapter will provide the meat, but bring a side dish or dessert.

FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

1. We have our new local chapter website up now and it can accessed by entering www.narfeclevelandtn.org. Hopefully this may help to get others interested in NARFE.

2. At the NARFE convention this summer, there will be a significant vote on whether new members will be required to be assigned to a chapter and pay dues. Current NARFE members pay dues of about \$35 to \$ 39. The amount can vary depending on how much chapter dues are assessed and the type of payment plan. Of this amount, \$10 is sent back to our chapter and ten percent is sent to the State Federation.

It is highly important that NARFE keep a strong membership base in order to give us a strong voice in Washington. It has been proposed that one method to encourage more federal employees and retirees to join NARFE would be to not require the member to belong to a chapter. A large percentage of non renewals is based on mandatory chapter membership, according to NARFE headquarters. If a member wants to be a part of a chapter, then they can elect to do that and pay the chapter dues, and participate in

chapter activities.

Which way do we want to tell our proxy to vote our two votes at the convention?

CHAPTER PRESIDENT - DANNY BRITT

=====

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE OF

EDITORS:

Currently, we are in the midst of a transition. Luckily, Betsy Deacon has agreed to help me out with a current situation. She has graciously agreed to use her professional talents with computers to design and produce the Chapter 860 Newsletter. Although I am in no way giving up my love for NARFE and other projects related to legislative issues in our region, I am personally thankful that Betsy is kicking in to help me...

It is, also, wonderful to see that members are using their talents and hearts to support our group. (Think about it...what could you do to help our chapter?) THANK YOU....BETSY! - Cathy B.

=====

MORE ABOUT OUR NEW EDITOR:

In her own words

I was born in Roanoke, VA. I have an older and a younger brother. Our Dad passed away following heart surgery when I was just short of turning three. Our Mother moved us back to Covington, VA to live with my maternal grandfather.

My best childhood memories are of reading, sewing, being outdoors, and doing odd jobs at my Mother's Interior Design Business. Thanks to my Grandfather, who used to take us kids out in the mountains and woods around our area, and the fact that we had a wooded mountain to play on right behind our house, I grew up loving the outdoors.

After finishing high school, I decided to attend Forestry School at Lancaster

Community College, just about 15 miles from where we lived. I earned an Associate Degree, and eight months later was able to get a job as a Forestry Technician with the Deerfield Ranger District on the George Washington National Forest. The job was only working

180 day temporary appointments, so, when after two years, I had a chance to get a permanent job working in the District Office, so I transferred to that and did that for nine years. During that time, computers became a part of everyday business, and I became very interested in their operations. I started taking classes in computers and in 1988 I transferred to Gainesville, GA, as a Computer Specialist Trainee. After two years, I was able to move here in Cleveland as the Computer Specialist for the Cherokee National Forest. In 1996 I finally got my Bachelor's degree. I worked here until March of 2005, when the Forest Service decided to reorganize and downsize computer operations and I decided to accept an early retirement option to pursue some dreams.

I never married, but love living with my many dogs and cats, which are my "children". I'm now self-employed, buying and selling antiques and collectibles, etc., for my booth at the Antique Parlor, and refinishing and restoring furniture. I don't have a whole lot of time for hobbies, but luckily live out in the country and love staring at my gorgeous view.

+++++

CHAPTER 860 OFFICERS

President - Danny Britt

Vic-President - Dean McAlister

Secretary - Joan Burner

Treas/Programs - Helen Evans

Service Officer - Don Rollens

Legislative - Maxine Eaves

Sunshine - Ruth Hale

Membership Chair - Jim Burner